

Leave was granted the Prince George's county delegation to introduce a bill to authorize and direct the county commissioners of Prince George's county to levy a sum of money for the purpose of enabling the sheriff of said county to procure the services of a suitable person as keeper of the jail of said county.

Mr. Stockbridge, from the committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

### REPORT.

#### *To the House of Delegates :*

The committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the petition of Joseph H. Audoun and others, judges of the Orphans' court of Baltimore city, praying an increase of their per diem, respectfully report: that for the reasons assigned in said petition your committee is satisfied that said judges are entitled to relief. The committee was met, however, with the objection that such increase of compensation was prohibited by section 23 of article 3 of the Constitution, and deem it due to themselves to say that if the question had been a new one, they should have held the objection insuperable, but they find that the Legislature, at almost every session since the adoption of the Constitution, has passed acts increasing the compensation of different officers of this class, and they do not feel at liberty, at this time, to reverse this unbroken current of legislative construction. They therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill as an act of justice, without, however, assuming to decide whether it shall affect the present incumbents or become operative only on the accession of their successors to office.

H. STOCKBRIDGE,

Chairman of Committee on the Judiciary.

A bill entitled, "An Act to repeal section eight hundred and four of article four of the Code of Public Local Laws entitled, 'City of Baltimore,' and to re-enact the same with an amendment, increasing the per diem of the judges of the Orphans' court."

Which was read the first time.

Mr. McCoy, from the committee on claims, reported favorably Senate bill entitled, "An Act to compensate John T. Wright for services rendered as messenger ;"

Which was read the second time.

Mr. Stockbridge, from the committee on the Judiciary, reported favorably a bill entitled, "An Act supplementary to